



Media Release

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Release Date: Friday 14 September

G-MW and GBCMA address Flood issues in the Broken Valley

Representatives of Goulburn-Murray Water (G-MW) and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) briefed residents and landholders from Goulburn and Broken catchment areas on a range of flood issues related to the Mokoan Return to Wetlands project yesterday.

The briefing session specifically addressed residents and landholders concerns regarding the operation of Lake Mokoan and Lake Nillahcootie.

“We have received several requests for information on these matters. Yesterday’s session was an opportunity for residents and landholders to further pinpoint their concerns and obtain answers based on the most relevant and current information - and with the technical expertise on hand to ensure the complex information is understood in context,” said Mr Smith.

Mr John Franklin of GHD outlined the scope, conclusions and limitations of a report on hydrology and downstream hydraulics that was commissioned by G-MW and undertaken by GHD as part of the Lake Mokoan Decommissioning Project.

“We have previously not released this report because we wanted to ensure anyone reading it was able to understand its value and scope in context,” said Mr Smith.

G-MW staff Bill Viney and Andrew Reynolds provided participants with an outline of Lake Nillahcootie’s operations over recent years and emphasised the range of factors that influence management decisions.

“Lake Nillahcootie’s primary function is water harvesting, flood mitigation is a secondary by-product of this objective. However the way we approach water harvesting has changed in recent years as new factors, including the Blue Green Algae outbreaks in Lake Mokoan as well as ongoing drought, have come to light,” said Mr Smith.

“Some residents and landholders may not be completely satisfied with the answers we have been able to provide, but we initiated this session as a genuine effort to deliver the most complete and accurate information available and to ensure participants had opportunity to discuss and understand the complex technical information,” said Mr Smith.

As part of the session, G-MW provided information and reports previously requested under Freedom of Information.

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